

CHAPTER 11. SIGN STANDARDS

1100. GENERAL

A developer shall erect signs and billboards according to the standards contained in this Code.

See also Section 206 (Sign placement and erection) and Chapter 15 (Definitions).

1100.1 Identification of signs

A developer shall mark every sign for which a permit is required with the name of the owner, lessee, or the sign company erecting and maintaining the sign, and shall have affixed on the front of it or on another location to be conspicuous and easily identifiable from an adjacent public street, an individually numbered sticker, tag or token provided by the City Building Official.

1100.2 Electrical signs

Any electrical sign shall conform fully to the requirements of Chapter 7, Electricity, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville and shall receive a permit under the provision of that chapter.

1100.3 Abandoned signs

Any structure lawfully erected and maintained that has no copy, transcript, reproduction, model, likeness, image, advertisement or written material for 120 consecutive days is declared to be in violation of this Code, and the owner or permittee shall restore to use or remove the sign within thirty (30) days after notice by the City Building Official of that violation. If the owner or permittee fails to restore the off-premise sign structure to use or remove the abandoned off-premise sign structure within the specified thirty (30) days, the sign company that received a permit for the sign shall be deemed to be in violation of this Code.

1100.4 Removal of signs

The City Building Official shall give written notice to alter or remove a sign by certified mail or by personal service upon the owner, lessee, or person responsible for the sign, or the owner's agent. If the owner cannot be located, notice may be served by posting it on the sign. If such order is not complied with within ten (10) days, the Building Official shall remove the sign at the expense of the owners, lessee, or responsible person.

See also Section 1103.3(2).

1100.5 Protection of first amendment rights

Any sign allowed under this Code may contain, instead of any other copy, any lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit if the sign complies with all other requirements of this Code.

1101. Classifications

1101.1 On-premise and off-premise signs

For this section and the regulations and provisions below, a sign shall be classified as either an "on-premise sign" or an "off-premise sign."

- (1) "On-premise sign" shall mean any sign identifying or advertising the business, person, activity, goods, products or services primarily sold or offered for sale on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained when such premise is used for business purposes.
- (2) "Off-premise sign" shall mean any sign advertising the business, person, activity, goods, products or services not usually located on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained, or which directs persons to any location not on the premises for business purposes.

1101.2 Types of signs

All signs shall further be classified into one of the following sign types:

- (1) "Ground sign" - a sign supported by uprights or braces in or upon the ground, including portable signs.
- (2) "Marquee sign" - a projecting sign attached or hung from a canopy or covered structure projecting from and supported by a frame or pipe support extending beyond a building;
- (3) "Projecting sign" - any sign affixed to any building wall or structure and extends beyond the building wall or structure more than twelve (12") inches;
- (4) "Roof sign" - any sign erected, constructed or maintained above the roof of any building;
- (5) "Wall sign" - any sign affixed to or painted upon the wall of any building.

1101.3 Special function signs

Any on-premise or off-premise sign of any type may also be included within one or more of the following additional classifications according to special functions:

- (1) "Awning sign" - any sign constructed of a fabric material stretched over a rigid metal frame that is attached to the wall, roof or mansard of a building. Such signs shall be classified as wall signs.
- (2) "Electrical sign" - any sign containing electrical wiring or utilizing electric current, but not including signs illuminated by an exterior light source.
- (3) "Fence sign" - any sign affixed to or painted upon a fence. A fence sign shall be classified as a ground sign, but shall not be required to comply with the structural requirements of Section 1104 of this Code.
- (4) "Portable sign" - any sign designed or constructed to be easily moved from one location to another, including signs mounted upon or designed to be mounted upon a trailer, bench, wheeled carrier or other nonmotorized mobile structure; a portable sign that has its wheels removed shall still be considered a portable sign. Trailer signs and signs on benches are portable signs.
- (5) "Spectacular sign" - any sign that has automatically changing advertising, or which is equipped with glaring or rotating strobe or spot lights, or which has any moving message at all. A changing or moving message that does not change or move more than once every four (4) hours shall not be considered automatically changing advertising.
- (6) "Temporary sign" - any sign constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard, or other light materials, not to exceed six (6) square feet in size.

1102. SIGN MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

1102.1 Maintenance

A developer shall keep all signs in good repair and, unless made of galvanized or non-corroding metal or treated with appropriate wood preservatives, shall paint the signs consistent with good maintenance. A developer shall keep all braces, bolts, clips, supporting frame and fastenings free from deterioration, termite infestation, rot, or loosening. All signs shall be able to withstand safely at all times the wind pressures specified in this Code. If a developer does not maintain a sign, the Building Official shall give written notice to the owner or lessee of the sign to maintain it or to remove it.

See Section 1100.4 (ten (10) day notice).

1102.2 Unsafe signs

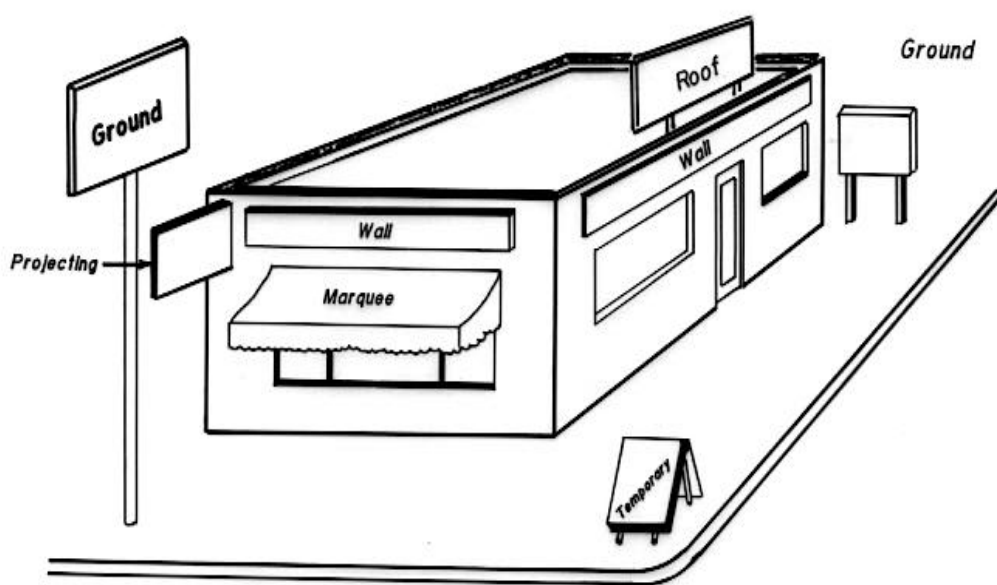
If any sign in the opinion of the Building Official becomes insecure or in danger of falling or otherwise unsafe, the Official shall give written notice of the condition of the sign to the person owning, leasing, or responsible for the sign. The person notified shall correct the unsafe condition of the sign in a manner approved by the Official and in conformity with the provisions of this Code.

See Section 1100.4 (ten (10) day notice)

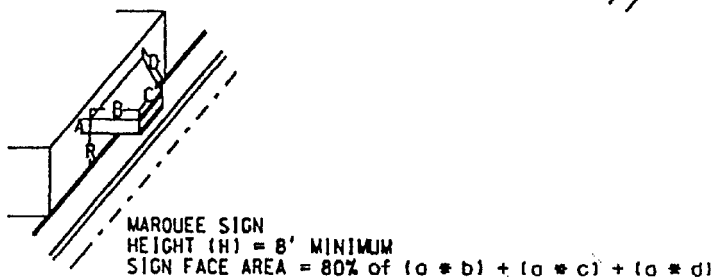
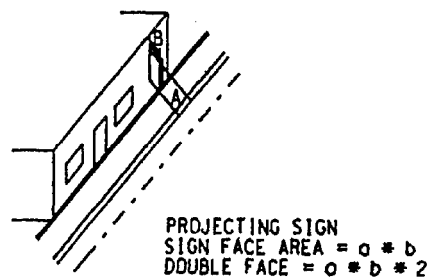
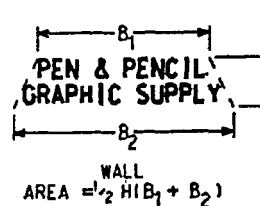
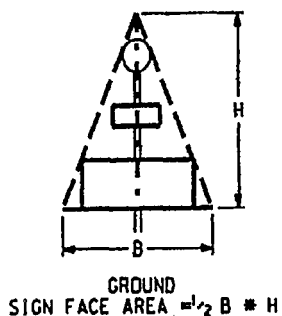
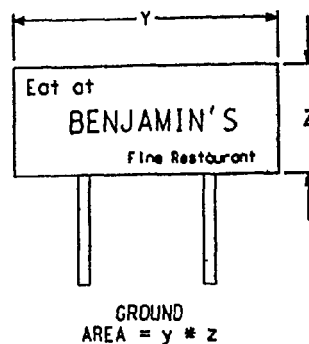
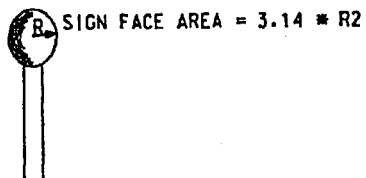
1102.3 Unlawful signs

If a developer installs, erects, constructs, or maintains a sign in violation of any of the terms of this Code, the Building Official shall give written notice to the owner, lessee, or person to alter the sign to comply with this Code or to remove the sign.

See Section 1100.4.



Huntsville Design Criteria	SIGN TYPES	Scale: NONE
Revisions		FIGURE 11-1



Huntsville Design Criteria	SIGN FACE AREA CALCULATION	Scale: NONE
Revisions		FIGURE 11-2

1103. MISCELLANEOUS SIGN PROVISIONS

1103.1 Christmas displays

Christmas displays and similar temporary displays erected without advertising shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter, but shall be subject to the Fire Code and rules and regulations for fire safety promulgated by the Fire Marshal.

1103.2 Political signs

No permit shall be required for a sign erected solely for and relating to a public election for a period commencing 60 days before and for 10 days following such public election, provided that such unpermitted sign shall be located on private property only, shall be constructed of lightweight material, and shall not exceed 50 square feet in size.

1103.3 Signs on public rights-of-way

- (1) With the exception of signs lawfully permitted or erected prior to June 16, 1981,
 - a person commits an offense if the person places a sign upon a public street, public sidewalk, public right-of-way, public curb or other public improvement without the express consent of the City Council. A person may, however, place coin-operated devices to display and vend newspapers and which do not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic. This section does not apply to public property leased for private business purposes.
- (2) City Council authorizes the seizure and removal of any unlawful sign found within
 - a public right-of-way. The Building Official, street department employees, and police department employees are authorized to impound any unlawful signs found on a public right-of-way and to hold the same in a storage area for a period of not more than thirty (30) days, except that any developer, political, real estate, garage sale or other similar stake-type signs constructed of cloth, wood, paper or similar light weight materials shall be disposed of immediately. Any sign held by the City may be redeemed by the owner thereof upon the payment of a fee to the City of \$50.00 for hauling plus \$10.00 per day storage. Such fee shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any fine imposed upon the owner for violation of this Code. Any sign not redeemed by the owner thereof within thirty (30) days may be disposed of in the same manner as other abandoned and surplus property in the possession of the City.

1103.4 Signs not to obstruct

- (1) A person commits an offense if the person erects, constructs, or maintains a sign that obstructs any means of egress, or any opening necessary for required light, ventilation or fire fighting or for escape from the premises, or prevents free passage from one part of a roof to any other part.

- (2) A person commits an offense if the person attaches a sign to any exterior stairway, fire escape, fire tower balcony, or balcony serving as a horizontal exit.
- (3) A person commits an offense if the person erects, constructs, or maintains
 - (a) a sign that interferes with the free operation of a counterbalanced section of a fire escape; or
 - (b) a projecting sign without a minimum of seven feet of clearance over a counterbalanced section of a fire escape.
- (4) No sign shall obstruct the free use of any window.

1103.5 Change of ornamental features or advertising display

No sign permit is required for the change to a sign of any of the sign's ornamental features, the sign's advertising display, or the replacement of any part of the sign that does not alter the sign's approval or make the sign unsafe.

1103.6 Signs obstructing or interfering with view

No person shall locate or illuminate a sign in a manner that obscures or otherwise interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal or device, or obstructs or interferes with the view of a driver of approaching, emerging or intersecting traffic, or prevents any traveler on any street from obtaining a clear view of approaching vehicles for a distance of 250 feet along the street.

1103.7 Proper shielding of lighted signs

- (1) A developer shall shield any light directed toward a sign so that it illuminates only the face of the sign and does not shine directly into a public right-of-way or residential premises.
- (2) No sign within one hundred fifty (150') feet of a residential area may be illuminated between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. unless the impact of such lighting beyond the boundaries of the lot where it is located is entirely inconsequential.

1103.8 Spectacular signs

Spectacular signs with glaring strobe or spot lights or rotating strobe or spot lights are prohibited.

1104. STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS

1104.1 Design

- (1) General - All signs and sign structures shall be designed and constructed to resist wind forces as specified in Chapter 12 of the Standard Building Code . All bracing systems shall be designed and constructed to transfer lateral forces to the foundations. For signs on buildings, the dead and lateral loads shall be transmitted through the structural frame of the building to the ground in such manner as not to overstress any of the elements.

The overturning moment produced from lateral forces shall in no case exceed two-thirds of the dead-load resisting moment for all signs. Uplift due to overturning shall be adequately resisted by proper anchorage to the ground or to the structural frame of the building for all signs. The weight of earth superimposed over footings may be used in determining the dead-load resisting moment. Such earth shall be carefully placed and thoroughly compacted.

The allowable stresses in wire ropes and steel guy rods and their fastenings shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) of their rated tensile strength.

- (2) Wind Loads - All signs and sign structures shall be designed to resist wind loads as outlined in Chapter 12, Section 1205.4 of the Standard Building Code:
- (3) Vertical Design Loads- Vertical design loads, except roof live loads, shall be assumed to be acting simultaneously with the wind loads.
- (4) Working Stresses- All signs shall be designed to conform with the requirements of the City Building Code regarding allowable working stresses. The working strength of chains, cables, guys or steel rods shall not exceed one-fourth of the ultimate strength of such chains, cables, guys or steel rods.

1104.2 Construction

- (1) General -The supports for all signs or sign structures shall be placed in or upon private property and shall be securely built, constructed, and erected in conformance with the requirements of the City Building Code.
- (2) Materials - The materials for construction of all signs and sign structures shall be of the quality and grade as specified for buildings in the City Building Code consistent with the City Fire Code.
- (3) Nonstructural Trim - Nonstructural trim and portable display surfaces may be of wood, metal, approved plastics, or any combination, consistent with the City Fire Code.

- (4) Anchorage - Members supporting unbraced signs shall be so proportioned that the bearing loads imposed on the soil in either direction, horizontal or vertical, shall not exceed the safe values stated in Section 1104.1(1). All ground signs shall be anchored to resist the wind load specified in Section 1104.1(1) acting in any direction. Anchors and supports shall be designed for safe bearing loads on the soil and for an effective resistance to pull out amounting to a force twenty-five (25) percent greater than the required resistance to overturning.
- (5) Signs Attached to Masonry-Signs attached to masonry concrete or steel shall be safely and securely fastened by means of metal anchors, bolts, or approved expansion screws of sufficient size and anchorage to support safely the loads applied.
- (6) Unbraced Parapet Wall-No anchor or support of any sign will be connected to, or supported by, an unbraced parapet wall, unless such wall is designed in accordance with the requirements for parapet walls specified in the City Building Code.
- (7) Display Surfaces-Display surfaces in all types of signs may be made of metal, wood, glass or approved plastics as noted in Section 1104.4 unless otherwise prohibited by the Fire Code.
- (8) Glass-Thickness and area limitations shall be as follows:

SIZE, THICKNESS AND TYPE OF GLASS PANELS IN SIGNS

Maximum Size of Exposed Glass Panel		Minimum Thickness of Glass (In Inches)	Type of Glass
Any Dimension Area			
In Inches	In Square Inches		
30	500	1/8	Plain, Plate or Wired
45	700	3/16	Plain, Plate or Wired
144	3,600	1/4	Plain, Plate or Wired
> 144	> 3,600	1/4	Wired Glass

1104.3 Electrical requirements

- (1) All electrical fixtures, equipment and appurtenances installed in conjunction with a sign shall be designed and installed in accordance with City Building Code.
- (2) All electrical signs shall be limited to one hundred fifty (150) watts for bulbs located in the face of the sign. Signs shall have electrical circuits limited to the normal voltage used in most commercial buildings, shall contain a sunshade screen dimmer; and shall not use reflectorized lights as part of the face of the sign. For the purposes of this Code, "reflectorized lights" shall mean any lamp constructed with reflector-type materials so as to focus, intensify, flood or spot such lamp in a certain direction, including, but not limited to, lamps designated by the manufacturers as flood, spot, reflector or flood, reflector spot, reflector light, or clear reflector.
- (3) Flashing, moving, blinking, chasing or other animation effects are prohibited on all signs, except time and temperature signs.
- (4) Every electric sign shall have affixed thereon an approved Underwriters Laboratories label, and all wiring connected to such sign shall comply with all provisions of the code of the City relating to electrical installations.

1104.4 Use of plastic materials

- (1) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) "Display surface" shall mean the entire surface of a sign, on one side, devoted to exhibiting or contrasting exhibits of advertising. The display surface shall generally include the entire sign surface except for the sign frame and incidental supports.
 - (b) "Sign facing" or "facing" shall mean a separate and distinguishable portion of the overall display surface.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code, plastic materials which burn at a maximum rate of two and one-half (2½") inches per minute when tested in accordance with "Test for Flammability of Rigid Plastics Over 0.050 Inches in Thickness, ASTM D635-1974", shall be deemed "approved plastics" for the purpose of this Code, and may be used as the display surface material and for the letters, decorations and facings on signs; provided that, the structure of the sign in which the plastic is mounted or installed is non-combustible.
- (3) Individual plastic facings of electrical signs shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet in area. If the area of a display surface exceeds 200 square feet, the area occupied or covered by approved plastics shall be limited to two hundred (200) square feet plus

fifty (50) percent of the difference between two hundred (200) square feet and the total square footage area of the sign.

- (4) The area of plastic on a display surface shall not in any case exceed 300 square feet.
- (5) Letters and decorations mounted upon an approved plastic facing or display surface shall be made of approved plastics.

1104.5 Height limitation and measurement

(1) Height limitation

- (a) No developer shall establish, construct or erect a ground sign that exceeds a height of twenty (20) feet when measured according to Section 1104.5.2 except:
 - 1) a ground sign within five hundred (500) feet of Interstate 45 may be constructed to a height not to exceed forty-two and one-half (42-1/2) feet;
 - 2) a ground sign within one hundred (100) feet of Highway 19 may be constructed to a height not to exceed thirty (30) feet.
- (b) A roof sign having a tight or solid surface shall not at any point exceed twenty (20) feet above the roof level.
- (c) Open roof signs in which the uniform open area is not less than forty (40%) percent of total gross area may be erected to a height of twenty (20) feet above the roof level.
- (d) Projecting signs shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in height above grade.

(2) Height measurement

A ground sign shall be measured from the highest point on the sign to the grade level of the ground surface on which the sign supports are placed, or to the grade level of the closest roadway surface adjacent to and at right angles to the sign placement, whichever is greater; in no case, however, shall the sign height exceed 42½ feet measured from the highest point on the sign to the grade level of the ground surface in which the sign supports are placed.

- (3) A roof sign having a tight or solid surface shall not at any point exceed twenty (20) feet above the roof level. Open roof signs in which the uniform open area is not less than forty (40%) percent of total gross area may be erected to a height of twenty (20) feet above the roof level. Projecting signs shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in height above grade.

1104.6 Size limitation

Except where allowed by this Code, no on-premise sign other than an on-premise wall sign shall be established, constructed, or erected which has face dimensions that exceed fifteen (15) feet in height or thirty (30) feet in width. No off-premise sign shall be established, constructed or erected which has a face area exceeding three hundred (300) square feet, including cutouts, but excluding uprights. No doublefaced off-premise sign shall be established, constructed, or erected unless each face is seventy-five (75) square feet or less and the faces are abutting on one edge.

1104.7 Method of determining the area of a sign

In determining the area of any sign, the dimensions of the rectangle enclosing the signboard, excluding the supporting structure, shall be used. If the sign includes cutouts or facings extending beyond the dimensions of the rectangular signboard, the measurement of sign area shall include the actual area of the cutout or extended facings. For signs of a double faced, back-to-back, or V-type nature, each face shall be considered a separate sign in computing the face area.

1104.8 Clearances

- (1) Clearances from High Voltage Power Lines - Signs shall be located a minimum distance of six (6) feet measured horizontally and twelve (12) feet measured vertically from overhead electric conductors which are energized in excess of seven hundred fifty (750) volts. The term "overhead conductors" as used in this section means any electrical conductor, either bare or insulated, installed above the ground.

See also the National Electrical Safety Code.

- (2) No portion of a sign or sign structure shall project into any public alley unless said portion is a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in height above grade.

1104.9 Fire prevention requirements

- (1) The following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) "Non-combustible material" shall mean material no less flammable than steel, iron, or other similar metal, or as the term shall be otherwise defined by the Fire or Building Code of the City; "non-combustible material" shall include "incombustible" material.
 - (b) "Combustible material" shall mean material more flammable than metal, but no more flammable than wood or approved plastic, as that term is defined in Section 1104.4; no material more flammable than wood or approved plastic shall be used in any sign.

- (2) When signs are required to be constructed of non-combustible material, all parts of such signs, including the sign structure, shall be of non-combustible material, except that the following parts made out of combustible material shall be permitted:
- (a) Small ornamental moldings, battens, cappings and nailing strips;
 - (b) Individual letters, symbols, figures and insignia supported by or within a non-combustible frame or a permitted combustible facing as permitted by Section 1104.4(2).
 - (c) Portions of each face of a sign, up to but not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet of facing, as long as the total area of facing for such sign does not exceed two hundred (200) square feet;
 - (d) Wood posts and braces for signs whose surface is no more than ten (10) feet six (6) inches in height when such signs are determined to be non-hazardous by the City based on health and safety considerations, including but not limited to, their location, their proximity to other flammable materials, their proximity to occupied structures, and their proximity to necessary fire fighting equipment.

1104.10 Ground signs

- (1) Lighting reflectors on ground signs may project beyond the face of the sign.
- (2) Every ground sign shall provide rigid construction to withstand wind action in all directions.
- (3) Any person, including the owner, lessee, or any other person, using a vacant lot or premises for the location of a ground sign shall keep such premises clean, sanitary, inoffensive, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances and unsightly conditions on the ground in the vicinity of such ground sign.

1104.11 Wall signs

Wall signs attached to exterior walls of solid masonry, concrete or stone, shall be safely and securely attached to the same by means of metal anchors, bolts or expansion screws of not less than three-eighths inch in diameter and shall be embedded at least five inches. A wall sign shall not be supported by anchorages secured to an unbraced parapet wall.

1104.12 Roof signs

- (1) No portion of any roof sign structure shall project beyond an exterior wall.

- (2) The bearing plates of all roof signs shall distribute the load directly to or upon masonry walls, steel roof girders, columns or beams. The building shall be designed to avoid overstress of these members.
- (3) All roof signs shall be thoroughly secured to the building upon which they are installed, erected or constructed by iron, metal anchors, bolts, supports, chains, stranded cables, steel rods or braces and they shall be maintained in good condition as set forth in Section 1102.
- (4) Every roof sign affixed to a rated building shall be constructed entirely of non-combustible materials, including the upright supports and braces. Roof signs shall not be located on any roof in such a manner that the location would impede access to any portion of the roof by fire department personnel.

1104.13 Projecting signs

- (1) All projecting signs shall be securely attached to the building or structure by metal supports such as bolts, anchors, supports, chains, guys or steel rods. Staples or nails shall not be used to secure any projecting sign to any building or structure.
- (2) The dead load of projecting signs, not parallel to the building or structure, and the load due to wind pressure shall be supported with chains, guys, or steel rods having net cross-sectional dimension of not less than three-eighths (3/8) inch in diameter. Such supports shall be erected or maintained at an angle of at least forty-five (45) degrees with the horizontal to resist the dead load and at an angle of forty-five (45) degrees or more with the face of the sign to resist the specified wind pressure. If such projecting sign exceeds thirty (30) square feet in one facial area, there shall be provided at least two such supports on each side of the sign not more than eight feet apart to resist the wind pressure.
- (3) All support shall be secured by an expansion shield to a bolt or expansion screw of such size that will develop the strength of the supporting chain, guys or steel rod, with a minimum five-eighths (5/8) inch bolt or lag screw. Turn buckles shall be placed in all chains, guys or steel rods supporting projecting signs.
- (4) Chains, cables, guys, or steel rods used to support the live or dead load of projecting signs may be fastened to solid masonry walls with expansion bolts or by machine screws in iron supports, but such supports shall not be attached to an unbraced parapet wall. Where the supports must be fastened to walls made of wood, the supporting anchor bolts must go through the wall and be plated and fastened on the wall in a secure manner.
- (5) A projecting sign shall not be erected on the wall of any building so as to project above the roof or cornice wall or above the roof level where there is no cornice wall; except that a sign erected at a right angle to the building, the horizontal width of which sign,

perpendicular to such wall does not exceed eighteen (18) inches may be erected to a height not exceeding two feet above the roof or cornice wall or above the roof level where there is no cornice wall. A sign attached to a corner of a building and parallel to the vertical line of such corner, shall be deemed to be erected at a right angle to the building wall.

1104.14 Marquee signs

Marquee signs may be attached to or hung from a marquee. The lowest point of a sign hung from a marquee shall be at least eight (8) feet above the sidewalk or ground level, and further, such signs shall not extend or project beyond the corners of the marquee. Marquee signs may be attached to the sides and front of a marquee, and a sign may extend the entire length and width of said marquee, provided that no sign shall extend more than six (6) feet above nor one foot below such marquee, nor have a vertical dimension greater than eight (8) feet.

1104.15 Awning signs

- (1) No awning sign shall project above the top of the awning upon which it is mounted.
- (2) No awning sign shall project from the face of an awning.
- (3) Awnings on which awning signs are mounted may extend over a public right-of-way no more than seven (7) feet beyond the face of a supporting building provided the conditions of Section 1103.3 have been met.
- (4) Awnings on which awning signs are mounted shall be at least eight (8) feet above any public right-of-way except that any valance attached to an awning may be only seven (7) feet in height above a public right-of-way provided the conditions of Section 1103.3 have been met.

1104.16 Portable signs

- (1) No new portable signs shall be allowed in the City.
- (2) A developer, owner, or lessee shall remove the following portable signs from the City by November 1, 1995, or as soon thereafter as applicable:
 - (e) Portable signs not lawfully in place on August 15, 1995;
 - (f) Any portable sign, or substantial part of it, blown down or otherwise destroyed or dismantled for any purpose other than maintenance operations or for changing the letters, symbols, or other matter on the sign. A portable sign or substantial part of it is considered to have been destroyed if the cost of repairing the sign is more than 60 percent of the cost of erecting a new sign of the same type at the same location.

1104.17 Signs of V-type or back-to-back construction

- (1) The angle between the faces of V-type signs shall be no greater than forty-five (45) degrees measured back-to-back. If the area of each face is three hundred (300) square feet or less, the maximum distance at the nearest point between the two backs, as measured at the apex, shall not exceed one and one-half feet. If the area of either face exceeds three hundred (300) square feet, then the maximum distance between the two (2) backs, as measured at the apex, shall not exceed three and one-half (3½) feet.
- (2) Back-to-back signs must be on common supports. The nearest point between the two (2) backs shall not exceed five (5) feet plus the diameter of the intervening upright or support if the area of each sign face is three hundred (300) square feet or less.

1105. ON-PREMISE SIGN PROVISIONS

1105.1 Location relative to public right-of-way

With the exception of on-premise signs lawfully permitted or erected prior to the passage of this Code, all on-premise signs and sign structures shall be contained wholly within the premises upon which they are located and shall not extend onto the public right-of-way (Ref. Section 1103.3).

1105.2 Business purpose required

An on-premise sign must be erected in connection with a business purpose; any sign not connected with a business purpose shall be considered an off-premise sign.

1106. OFF-PREMISE SIGN PROVISIONS

1106.1 General location

- (1) A person commits an offense if he erects, constructs or establishes an off-premise sign not visible from one or more of the following major thoroughfares:
 - (a) Highway 75
 - (b) Highway 30
 - (c) Interstate 45
 - (d) Highway 19 (East Loop)
 - (e) Highway 190
- (2) An off-premise sign may be erected only within eight hundred (800) feet of at least two adjacent recognized commercial or industrial activities, which are on the same side of the highway as the sign.

- (3) No off-premise sign may be erected within five hundred (500) feet of any structure in which one or more human beings reside or which is designed for human habitation; provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to hotels, motels, or recreational vehicle parks which provide overnight accommodations only.
- (4) All off-premise signs, other than those subject to regulation under the provisions of the Texas Litter Abatement Act and Texas Highway Beautification Act (TEX.REV.CIV.STAT. Art. 4477-9a) including all amendments) or under the Federal Highway Beautification Act (23 USCA Section 131 et seq), shall be subject to the following spacing requirements from other than off-premise signs on the same side of the public right-of-way.
 - (a) No off-premise sign having a face area up to three hundred (300) square feet shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of another off-premise sign or on-premise sign on the same side of the public right-of-way.
 - (b) In computing the distance between off-premise signs, all measurements shall be made parallel to the edge of the street, and on the same side of the street.
 - (c) These general location requirements shall apply to all classifications of signs, types of signs and special function signs, and all other signs used as off-premise signs, including portable signs.
- (5) No off-premise sign may be erected within seven thousand feet (7000') of the Sam Houston Statue - Huntsville Visitor Center.

1107. LOCATION ON PROPERTY

All off-premise signs and sign structures shall be within the deeded front building line, or if no such line exists, within the property line, but in no event closer than twenty (20) feet to the curb of any public street.

1108. VISIBILITY TRIANGLE

The developer shall place or erect signs so as not to interfere with the sight triangle standards contained in Section 604.3 and Figure 6-2. No part of the face of a sign shall be lower than a height of eight (8) feet above the grade level of the nearest street. No part of the structure over one (1) foot in width shall be located within the sight triangle.

1109. DOWNTOWN DISTRICT SIGNS

All signs constructed in the Downtown District shall be presented to the Arts Commission which shall have fourteen days to review and make recommendations to the owner prior to the City Building Official issuing a permit for a sign.